

Facility Closure

4.1 Introduction

Facility closure can be temporary or permanent. Temporary closure is defined as a shutdown for a period exceeding the time required for normal maintenance, including for overhaul or replacement of the combustion turbine generators (CTGs). Causes for temporary closure include a disruption in the supply of natural gas or damage to the plant from earthquake, fire, storm, or other natural acts. Permanent closure is defined as a cessation in operations with no intent to restart operations owing to plant age, damage to the plant beyond repair, economic conditions, or other reasons. These two types of closures are discussed in the following sections.

4.2 Temporary Closure

For a temporary closure, in which no release of hazardous materials occurs, security of the facilities will be maintained on a 24-hour basis. Depending on the length of shutdown necessary, a contingency plan for the temporary cessation of operations will be implemented. The contingency plan will be conducted to assure conformance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS) and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. The plan, depending on the expected duration of the shutdown, may include the draining of all chemicals from storage tanks and other equipment and the safe shutdown of all equipment. All wastes will be disposed according to applicable LORS, as discussed in Section 8.12.

When the temporary closure includes damage to the facility, and there is a release or threatened release of acutely hazardous materials into the environment, procedures will be followed as set forth in a Spill Prevention Plan to be developed, as described in Section 8.12. Procedures will include methods to control releases, notification of applicable authorities and the public, and emergency responses appropriate for plant personnel who will be trained in responding to, and controlling releases of, hazardous materials. Once the immediate problem is solved, and the acutely hazardous materials release is contained and cleaned up, temporary closure will proceed as described above for a closure where there is no release of hazardous materials.

4.3 Permanent Closure

The planned life of the generating facility is 30 years. However, if the facility were still economically viable, it could be operated longer. Whenever the facility is permanently closed, the closure procedure will follow a plan that will be developed as described below.

The removal of the facility from service, or decommissioning, may range from “mothballing” to the removal of all equipment and appurtenant facilities, depending on

conditions at the time. Because the conditions that would affect the decommissioning decision are largely unknown at this time, these conditions would be presented to the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the City of Ripon (City) when more information is available and the timing for decommissioning is more imminent.

To ensure that public health and safety and the environment are protected during decommissioning, a decommissioning plan will be submitted to the CEC for approval prior to the commencement of decommissioning activities. The plan will discuss the following:

- Proposed decommissioning activities for the facility and all appurtenant facilities constructed as part of the facility
- Conformance of the proposed decommissioning activities to all applicable LORS and local/regional plans
- Activities necessary to restore the site if the plan requires removal of all equipment and appurtenant facilities
- Decommissioning alternatives other than complete restoration
- Associated costs of the proposed decommissioning and the source of funds to pay for the decommissioning

In general, the decommissioning plan for the facility will attempt to maximize the recycling of all facility components. Unused chemicals will be sold back to the suppliers or other purchasers or users. All equipment containing chemicals will be drained and shut down to ensure public health and safety and to protect the environment. All non-hazardous wastes will be collected and disposed of in appropriate landfills or waste collection facilities. All hazardous wastes will be disposed of according to all applicable LORS. The site will be secured 24 hours per day during the decommissioning activities.